(b) if so, whether Government are likely to pump in Rs. 200 crore as a part of rescue package to revive the loss-making ITI; and

(c) the other salient features of the rehabilitation package for ITI as worked out by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)has exempted from open offer to enable Government of India to infuse Equity Capital of Rs. 200 crore at par in ITI.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India had subscribed for Rs. 200 crore of Equity Capital as a part of rescue package to revive the loss-making ITI.

(c) Following Revival package has been sanctioned to M/s ITI:—

| 1.Released during 2004-05 | (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|
| (i) VRS reimbursement upto 2003-04 | 338.00 |
| (ii) VRS expenditure 2004-05 | 120.00 |
| (iii) Payment of PF dues | 93.10 |
| (iv) Capital Expenditure | 50.00 |
| (v) Equity Infusion | 200.00 |
| (vi) Waiver of interest/Penal Interest on GOI loan | 23.67 |
| 2.To be released during 2005-06 | |
| (i) VRS | 100.00 |
| (ii) Capital expenditure | 100.00 |
| TOTAL | 1024.77 |

**USO Act to allow wider use of funds**

4517. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to incorporate changes in the Universal Service Obiigaiton (USO) Act to allow wider use of funds;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to abolish Access Deficit Charge (ADC); and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received to include all wireless services under USO Fund and the same is under consideration.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

**Rural teledensity *Vis-a-Vis* Urban Areas**

4518. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICAITONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ti is a fact that Government have decided to accelerate connectivity by setting a target of 15 crore fresh connectivity in the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the digital divide was yet to be bridged as the teledensity in villages was 1.7 percent compared to 27 per cent in urban areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The targets of Additional phones for Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) for the next three years are given as below:

(in millions)

| SI. No | ITEM | TARGET | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | BSNI | MTNL |
| 1 | 2005-2006 (Fixed, WLL, Mobile) | 24.70 | 1.00 |
| 2 | 2006-2007 (Fixed, WLL, Mobile) | 27.44 | 2.00 |
| 3 | 2007-2008 (Fixed, WLL, Mobile) (up to December, 2007) | 24.50 | 1.75 |
| | Total | 76.64 | 4.75 |